

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

MAGUGU

POPULATION AND LAND USE IN A RESETTLEMENT PROJECT  
IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCE OF TANGANYIKA

A DISSERTATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
for the degree

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Field of Geography

by  
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Evanston, Illinois

June, 1955



## PREFACE

Field work in the Magugu, Tanganyika, area was conducted by the author from January to June, 1954. The region studied is a primitive one. At the same time it is a new and pioneering area---a pioneer area quite unlike many areas into which pioneers have moved one by one in a gradual movement of population.

In 1942 Magugu did not exist. In 1943 an outbreak of sleeping sickness in the Rift Valley near Magugu posed the problem to the Tanganyika Government of what to do with the Africans who were to be moved from the infected zone. The problem was solved by clearing the vegetation at Magugu so that tsetse flies, the carriers of sleeping sickness, could no longer live in the area. Roads were built. An irrigation ditch was dug. A trading settlement was laid out. And over a thousand Africans were moved into the newly cleared area. Since 1943 there has been a continual influx of settlers, until today over three thousand people, African, Asian, and European, live in this fertile part of the Rift Valley.

As Magugu is such a new area, no studies of this settlement had been made previous to the present one. Because it is a pioneer area, many problems of research had to be overcome in order to carry out this study.



There were few detailed maps of the area, and those that did exist contained many errors. No local English-Swahili speaking African was available as an interpreter, and as a result a stranger had to be brought from the Mt. Kilimanjaro region to act as interpreter. Many types of dangerous diseases are endemic at Magugu, and constant vigilance had to be maintained lest the study be terminated by prolonged illness.

There were certain physical problems that had to be solved. One of these was the problem of transportation. Although the area is not a large one, it was soon realized that much time would be lost in walking to all parts of the region. This problem was solved when a local European farmer and an Asian shopkeeper loaned bicycles for the use of both the author and his interpreter. Once the general area to be studied on a given day had been reached, the bicycles were put aside while the area was examined on foot.

Another problem was that of finding all the farms. As many of them are isolated, it at first appeared that many of the farms would remain undiscovered. However, by dividing the area into the administrative divisions set up by the local African governmental authorities convenient areal work units could be established. Then by daily mapping of the area covered, eventually the total area could be accurately mapped. The Magugu farmers also aided in

finding farms by reporting locations of particularly isolated and hard to find farms of friends and acquaintances. In May when aerial photographs of the area were obtained, the photographs were checked to make sure that all the farms had been examined. As far as is known, all farms were examined in the area with the exception of a few plots worked by owners who lived on European estates.

The problem of getting reliable information from the farmers was never entirely overcome. This, however, is not a peculiarity of the Magugu region. The same may be said of mid-western farmers in the United States or of the European farmer, both of whom are reluctant to give information to interviewers. The problem of obtaining information was made more difficult by the use of an interpreter---an interpreter who at times strove too hard to please by reporting what he thought was wanted rather than the actual facts. However, once the author began to learn some Swahili this difficulty was minimized. Fortunately, most farmers could speak Swahili. Hence, the complicated procedure of speaking (1) to an interpreter, (2) through the interpreter to a Swahili- and tribal tongue-speaking farmer, and finally (3) through the farmer to an African speaking only a tribal tongue was rare. Because of the great amount of information desired from each farmer, ranging from numbers of wives, children, and dependents to the size of each field, it was necessary to use interview

sheets. A sample form was made and used for ten days. Certain questions were then changed, deleted, or added, and the sheets were mimeographed in final form. Cordial relationships were maintained at all times with the people interviewed, and not a single uncooperative farmer was encountered. At times small groups of farmers were interviewed together, especially if these farmers were found working in adjacent fields. Such interview sessions were always pleasant ones---so much so that one of the farmers who had not yet been visited complained to the author that he was being slighted by not being interviewed.

The complex makeup of the Magugu population, representing fifty-five different tribes, has tended to make the community a divided one. Various tribes practice types of agriculture resented by other tribes. Eating habits are different, as are religion, dress, and speech. All these differences had to be taken into account and given consideration while the study was being made.

The author owes much to many people in Tanganyika who have made this study possible. No one has taken a greater interest in the field work than Mr. Henry A. Fosbrooke, Senior Sociologist to the Tanganyika Government. Mr. Fosbrooke has had more to do with the Magugu community than any other Government official in Tanganyika. He is truly the father of Magugu, for without his interest and



guidance Magugu would not be in existence today. He drew up the plans to clear the area of tsetse-harboring vegetation, and he camped on the spot for nine months to see that the clearing was carried out. During the past ten years his interest in the area has remained keen, and when on safari in the vicinity, he makes a point of visiting Magugu, the child of his vision and imagination. Mr. Fosbrooke invited the author to Tanganyika; he made arrangements with the Tanganyika Government for financial help, housing and transportation; and he and his wife were charming hosts to the author at their home outside Arusha on the shores of Lake Duluti, a crater lake with one of the most breathtaking views in all Africa. The author wishes to express sincere thanks and appreciation to Mr. Fosbrooke for the generous support he gave to this study.

Various officials in the Tanganyika Government gave generously of their time and effort in order that this study might be completed. Mr. John Vail, soils chemist, of Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika, was granted permission by the head of the Government Chemist's Office, Mr. W.E. Calton, to come to Magugu to make the soil survey. If one realizes that such an effort involves (1) flying from Dar es Salaam to Arusha; (2) driving a truck ninety-five miles to Magugu over bad roads; (3) hiring local labor and transportation in order to dig soil pits under a tropical

sun; (4) living under primitive safari conditions; (5) sending hundreds of soil samples back to Dar es Salaam for analysis; and (6) writing a lengthy report on the results of the survey---only then can one realize the indebtedness owed to such officials as Mr. Vail.

Mr. C.I. Meek, District Commissioner of the Mbulu District, placed the Magugu Rest Camp at the author's disposal and allowed him to examine Government files which contained valuable information concerning the history of Magugu.

Many of the District Officers from Mbulu visited the author while at Magugu. They gave valuable suggestions and advice, acted as guides to much of the Mbulu District, and were genial hosts in their homes.

Mr. M.J.B. Molohan, Provincial Commissioner of the Northern Province of Tanganyika, visited Magugu twice during the author's stay and assisted in getting to the author the aerial photographs of the area.

The Air Survey Division of the Department of Lands and Surveys, Dar es Salaam, photographed Magugu from the air, furnished prints without cost, and gave permission for their reproduction in this study.

Special gratitude is expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Chris Gritzalis of Sino Estate, Magugu. Mr. Gritzalis, a professional hunter, took the author on several exciting hunting safaris, provided local transportation whenever it was



requested, and did many things that made the stay at Magugu a productive one. Mrs. Gritzalis provided the author with excellent meals and lodging while he was in the Sino area, and made her home a welcome haven from the primitiveness of Magugu.

Mr. Homer Micheledes, a professional hunter who was killed while hunting lions at Magugu shortly after the author returned to the United States, provided local transportation and transported the author to Ngorongoro Crater, Kondoa, and Singida.

Mr. Michael Lelo Cyril was a competent interpreter; his good humor and hard work helped to bridge the difficult language gap between the author and the Swahili-speaking farmers at Magugu. Abdu, the cook; Saidi, the house boy; and Ndorobo, the kitchen boy, were faithful African servants who made life more comfortable.

Many people in the United States assisted the author in making this study. The field work could not have been made without the financial support of the Program of African Studies at Northwestern University. Gratitude is expressed to Dr. William R. Bascom, of the Department of Anthropology and member of the Interdisciplinary Committee on African Studies, who arranged the initial grant, and to Dr. Melville J. Herskovits, chairman of the Program of African Studies, who not only approved the first grant but also arranged for a supplementary grant while the

author was in the field.

Dr. Clarence F. Jones, chairman of the Department of Geography, Northwestern University; Dr. Donald R. Petterson, of the Department of Geography and member of the Interdisciplinary Committee on African Studies; and Dr. Bascom were members of the author's supervisory committee and made many helpful suggestions and comments concerning the manuscript.

Gratitude is tendered to Mr. Tracy V. Robb, who did a superior job on all the cartographic work. For months his spare time from his regular work was taken up in drawing the maps and charts for the dissertation.

Finally, to the many others in both Tanganyika and the United States who cooperated in accomplishing this land utilization survey go the author's thanks and appreciation.

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Evanston, Illinois  
May, 1955